Tourism Promotion Council

4350. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Tourism Promotion Corporation/ Council in the Centre and State Capitals/Union Territories in order to use vast tourism potential and encourage foreign tourists;

(b)if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are already Tourism Development Corporations such as India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and State Tourism Development Corporations for development of tourism at the National/State and U.T. levels.

PR Services for Picasso exhibition

4351. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entrusted the Picasso exhibition publicity work to Integral PR Services for four months; and

(b) if so, what is the rationale in spending lakhs of rupees in hiring a private public relations agency to handle the publicity of the exhibition in India when Government have their own Information Department for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Information in this regard is being collected and would be placed at the table of the House.

Development of new tourist sites in Gujarat

4352. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new tourism sites have been identified in the State of Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the allocations made/proposed to be made for the development of these sites?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of identified sites in the country including the State of Gujarat is a continuous process. Department of Tourism, Govt, of India provides funds for tourism-related projects identified every year in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations. 53 projects have been approved for the State of Gujarat in the last three years.

(c)

Year	No. of projects approved	Amount sanctioned (Rupees in lakhs)
1999-2000	23	407.64
2000-2001	19	510.85
2001-2002	11	315.50

Preservation of heritage structures and museums of Kabul

4353. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India proposed to help Kabul to preserve their Heritage structures and reconstruct museums;

(b) if so, the planning made in this regard; and

(c) the allocations made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) As per information gathered from the Ministry of External Affairs, the Government of India is committed to assist the Government of Afghanistan in the field of preservation of heritage structures and museums.

Security and maintenance of historical and culturally important places

† 4354. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.